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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7305
INFO RUEHZH/HAITI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 1715
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 1529
RUEHQU/AMCONSUL QUEBEC PRIORITY 0952
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1364

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PORT AU PRINCE 001904

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STATE FOR WHA/EX AND WHA/CAR
S/CRS
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INR/IAA
WHA/EX PLEASE PASS USOAS

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TAGS: PREL ECON HA PGOV SMIG SNAR
SUBJECT: HAITI MONTHLY: NOVEMBER, 2007

REF: A. PAP 1345
 1B. PAP 1782
 1C. PAP 1810

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Classified By: Charge Thomas C. Tighe for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (U) Summary: This is a monthly report on various topics of interest which do not merit a full reporting cable. End summary.

12. (SBU) PREVAL SEEKS CONSENSUS ON NEED FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM FROM MAJOR LABOR UNIONS.
Gesner Milcent, General Coordinator for the Haitian Syndicate Initiative (ISH) informed poloff at a meeting on November 16, that President Preval had consulted the major labor union leaders on reforming the Haitian constitution as early as March 2007. At the time, the President had extended invitations to major labor union leaders via Minister of Social Affairs, Gerald Germain, for weekly meetings from March to April 2007. At these meetings, constitutional law expert, newspaper editor, and head of the presidential commission for constitutional reform, Claude Moise underscored the need for constitutional reform. Gesner claimed all attendees reached a consensus and formed two working commissions (Commission on the 1987 Constitution and Commission on Labor Union Development), mandated to contact affiliated smaller labor unions around the country for further consensus. Preval promised a working budget and is slated to meet with the commissions to discuss the working budget and strategy. (Note: Gesner told poloff on November 30 that a proposed budget was sent to the Palace and returned to the Ministry of Social Affairs, described as "exorbitant." End note.)

13. (U) FRITZ BRANDT FREED.
Prominent businessman Fritz Brandt and two associates were freed November 6 for lack of evidence after three months of preventive detention in a case that was heralded as an example of the government's determination to fight corruption (reftel A). However, Brandt's son David Louis and six others are still being held and will be sent to trial without benefit of a jury on charges of fraud, holding stolen merchandise, and criminal association. The case centers on

allegations the younger Brandt and others used false documentation for the importation of a single truck.

14. (U) HAITI-DR STRATEGIC ALLIANCE ON COUNTER-NARCOTICS.
Secretary of State for Public Security Eucher-Luc Joseph and

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HN P Director General Mario Andresol traveled to Santo Domingo on November 22 to meet with the Dominican Republic's Secretary of the Armed Forces and head of the Drug Control

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National Directorate (DNCD). The high-ranking security officials adopted a joint-strategy to pursue more effective and consistent cooperation on drugs and crime, so that "our countries are not havens for criminals."

15. (C) LIKELY CHANGEOVER IN PARLIAMENT LEADERSHIP.
President of the Haitian Senate Joseph Lambert (Lespwa - Southeast) told Ambassador on November 28 he will not seek another term as President of the Senate when his two-year mandate expires in January 2008. He cited a desire to increase his odds of re-election by focusing more on his constituents' needs and providing something "concrete" to the Southeast Department. (Comment: Lambert's assertion may prove false when the campaign for Senate President begins in earnest. Ever the shrewd politician, Lambert may well be attempting to downplay his pursuit of power and promote a more altruistic image in order to better his reputation. End Comment.) Lambert also noted that Chamber of Deputies President Eric Jean-Jacques (Lespwa - Delmas, West) is unlikely to return for another term as President due to the gravity of his recently diagnosed cancer. (Note: Jean-Jacques has been in Cuba for several weeks for medical tests and reports to date have been discouraging. End note.)

16. (U) FORMER SENATOR DEWINE HONORED FOR HOPE.
The Association for Haitian Industries (ADIH) on November 17 honored former Senator of Ohio Mike DeWine with a plaque of

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appreciation. ADIH and other members of the textile industry admire Senator DeWine, who has visited Haiti on several occasions, for his strong role and leadership in the passage of the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement Act (HOPE) legislation in December 2006. During his four-day trip, supported by the Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF), DeWine and his family also visited an orphanage, school and reservoir projects in Gonaives and a school in Cite Soleil.

17. (U) HAITI HOSTS 23RD WORLD CONFERENCE OF MAYORS.
The 23rd World Conference of Mayors, hosted by the GOH in collaboration with the National Coalition of Black Mayors (NCBM), the City of Florida City, and GALATA Haitian Culture Enrichment & Self Empowerment, Inc. (a Florida not-for profit community based organization, currently known as GALATA, Inc.), began on November 28, in Port-au-Prince. The theme of the Conference, "Reinforcement of Municipalities," focuses on six Haitian cities -- St. Marc, Milot, Marchand-Dessalines, Cabaret, Dame-Marie and Fonds-des-Negres. In attendance are thirty-two American Mayors, led by the Founder of the World Conference of Mayors, Mayor of Tuskegee, AL Johnny Ford. According to the Minister of Interior, the EU contributed USD 150,000 to support the conference. (Note: the EU's contribution no doubt buttressed the ability for the GOH to hold the 5-day conference at the posh Club Indigo resort. End Note.)

18. (SBU) U.S. AND HAITI SIGN AGREEMENT TO FIGHT MONEY-LAUNDERING.
At a November 30 ceremony, Ambassador and Minister of Justice Rene Magloire signed an agreement to establish a two-year program to strengthen anti-money laundering policies and activities. Under the program, Treasury Department's Office

of Technical Assistance will provide technical assistance to the Financial Intelligence Unit (UCREF), the Office of Financial and Economic Affairs (BAFE) of the US Embassy, and the Narcotics Affairs Section.

¶9. (C) SRI LANKANS CAST DOUBT ON ABUSE INVESTIGATION.
MINUSTAH repatriated 111 soldiers of the Sri Lankan Battalion (SriBat) on November 3 for disciplinary reasons due to accusations of sexual exploitation and abuse (ref B). A high-level MINUSTAH source told poloff November 28 that although Sri Lanka sent its own investigative team to Port-5QvQWPg-e members of SriBat did have sexual relations with prostitutes, some of which were minors, the vast majority of the accusations cannot be substantiated due to alleged flaws in the investigation. A formal UN report has yet to be published.

¶10. (C) GASSANT LIBERATES HARDENED CRIMINALS.
On November 14, the Network for the National Defense of Human Rights noted that of the 74 inmates Chief Prosecutor Claudy Gassant released from detention on November 7, 14 were implicated with serious malfeasance (ref C). HNP contacts also expressed deep concerns. This prisoner release differed substantially from earlier releases in several ways: the seriousness of the alleged crimes, the relatively recent dates of arrest (the majority in 2007), and the number of active cases before judges, thus resulting in prisoners being released prior to handing down of verdicts. Previous groups had been charged with lesser crimes, had been detained longer, had not had their cases presented to judges and in some cases had already spent more time in incarceration than the possible sentences they could receive.

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